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## Some Jurors in Smart Trial Profess To Having Little Knowledge of Case

**EXETER** — The quick selection of five jury members in the trial of Pamela Smart came as a surprise to many yesterday, but even more surprising in a case besieged by publicity was the fact that several of those picked said they know little or nothing about the case.

A young software engineer told Rockingham County Superior Court Judge Douglas Gray that he had heard only vague conversations about the case.

He told Gray that he tried to avoid newspapers and other media outlets since meeting his wife five years ago, because he and his wife agree that the news tends to "give a negative outlook on life."

After receiving his notice to serve jury duty in the trial, he said he remembered asking "What's that (case)?"

A 24-year-old Harvard graduate told the judge he knew

nothing about the case because he had been out of the country for eight months. Upon receiving notice to serve on the jury he asked his parents about the case.

Because his father is an attorney and understands members of the jury are not to be influenced by outside information, he was told it was a murder case and nothing else.

A middle-aged woman who works as an office manager in Cambridge, Mass., told the judge she works long days and has little time to read the paper or watch the television news.

When she got her notice, she said, the name Pamela Smart didn't even ring a bell.

She said what little she does know about the case does not explain why it has been so heavily publicized.

"I don't know why they (the media) are making so much of it

unless it's because it's New Hampshire," she said. "Where I come from it's a common occurrence."

While others admitted to having read or seen considerably more about the case, however, everyone questioned took their potential jury duty very seriously.

"This is an enormous responsibility to perhaps decide someone's life," said one elderly woman who was later dismissed.

The 24-year-old who was chosen said he wasn't particularly eager to sit on the jury, pointing to the time it would take from his life and the "heavy responsibility" of deciding another's fate, but he said he sees jury duty as just that — duty.

"It sounds corny," he said. "But I've enjoyed being an American and all the benefits with it. This is kind of paying your dues."